

RAJYA SABHA

*Tuesday, the 18th December, 1998 17
Agrahayana, 1920 (Saka)*

*The House met at eleven of the clock Mr.
Chairman in the Chair.*

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Modernisation of Textile Technology

† * 121. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN
ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal
to modernise the textile technology; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI
KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) A Statement
is laid on the Table of the
House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is a proposal of the Government
of India which is under finalisation to
facilitate modernisation through tech-
nological upgradation with a view to en-
hancing viability and competitiveness of the
textile industry. Under the Scheme to
Technology Upgradation Fund, an interest
incentive of 5 percentage points on loan
availed of from designated (Nodal) financial
institutions/banks is proposed to be provided
to the eligible units in the identified sectors
of textile industry. The interest incentive
would be reimbursed to these Nodal
Financial Institutions through the budget
provisions of the Ministry of Textiles. '

Recession in Textile Industry

†*135. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA
NAHATA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be
pleased to state:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be
pleased to state:

† Question Nos. 121 and 135 were taken
together.

†† The Question was actually asked on the
floor of the House by Shrimati Jayaprada
Nahata.

(a) whether imports in India have in-
creased sharply during the first four

months of the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to save the
domestic textile industry mired in crisis
due to recession in demand?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI
KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) A
statement is laid of the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The import of textile products dur-ing
the first four months of the current year (i.e.
April — July, 1998) amounted to US dollars
309.84 million (provisional) showing an
increase of 8.7% over the corresponding
period of the previous year.

(b) In the various WTO agreements, there
are provisions whereby any member country,
including India, can take safeguard measures
against cheap imports. Government has been
closely watching the import trends of textile
products and if the need arises Government
can initiate necessary steps for containing
such imports.

A proposal is under consideration to
launch a Fund for Technology Upgradation
in identified sectors of the textile industry
in order to make it more competitive.
Another proposal is under consideration to
launch a Technology Mission for cotton
which would also benefit the textile
industry. Government has also been taking
measures to encourage exports of textile
products. In the wake of depressed demand
for cotton yarn in the international market,
conditions governing production of cotton
yarn for export have been relaxed.

Government have also constituted an
Expert Committee to give recommenda-
tions for a new Textile Policy

श्री खान गुफ्रान ज़ाहिदी: क्या माननीय मंत्री जी
बताएंगे कि टेक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री में मॉडर्नाइज़ेशन की
बात आप कर रहे हैं, उस से तो सारे मिल बंद पड़े हुए
हैं और उन में काम नहीं हो रहा है। कानपुर में काफी